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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,392	09/12/2003	Jeffrey George	60518-159	8437

27305 7590 12/26/2006
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EXAMINER

KARKHANIS, AASHISH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/26/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/661,392	Applicant(s) GEORGE ET AL.	
	Examiner Aashish Karkhanis	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 – 12, 14, 22 – 28, 30 – 40 and 50 – 56 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sarno (U.S. Patent 6,024,641).

Regarding Claims 1 and 30, Sarno discloses a remote system for use with a gaming system for implementing a player tracking system and having at least one gaming machine playable by a player (col. 1, lins. 8 – 18), a host computer coupled to the at least one gaming machine by a network (col. 3, lins. 58 – 62), including a remote device, the remote device being embodied in a mobile computer which may be carried by a user (col. 4, lins. 18 – 19; where a personal digital assistant is a handheld device), and, a remote network interface coupled to the remote device for exchanging data between the host computer and the remote device, the data including sign-up information to enroll the player in the player tracking system by filling out a fillable form (col. 7, lins. 18 – 32; where a user inputs information into a web client attendance form to register and begin play of a game).

Regarding Claims 63 – 64, Sarno discloses a system including at least one gaming machine playable by a player (col. 1, lins. 8 – 18), a player tracking system including a host computer connected to the at least one gaming machine by a network

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(col. 3, lins. 58 – 62), a remote device, the remote device being embodied in a mobile computer which may be carried by a user and being connected to the player tracking system (col. 4, lins. 18 – 19; where a personal digital assistant is a mobile device), and a remote network interface coupled to the remote device for exchanging data between the host computer and the remote device (col. 3, lin. 45; where the world wide web is a remote network interface), the data including sign-up information in a fillable form to enroll the player in the player tracking system (col. 7, lins. 18 – 32; where a user inputs information into a fillable web client attendance form to enroll and begin play of a game).

Regarding Claims 2 – 5 and 31 – 34, Sarno discloses a remote device coupled to the remote network interface by a wireless connection, where a wireless connection uses an IEEE 802.11 standard including IEEE 802.11b or IEEE 802.11g (col. 4, lins. 44 – 47; where an IEEE 802.11 standard and its sub-standards are all specific and inherent embodiments of generic wireless connection methods).

Regarding Claims 6 – 10 and 35 – 38, Sarno discloses a remote device having a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user for acquiring input via a web client from the user, formatting and presenting data to the user (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22), including a signup form, player information, the signup form being fillable with the player information by a user, the remote device for sending the signup form and player information to the remote network interface device (col. 7, lins. 18 – 32; where a user inputs information into a web client attendance form to register and begin play of a game over a network), where the signup form is accessible through the web client (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22).

Regarding Claims 11 – 12 and 39 – 40, Sarno discloses a remote network interface for confirming that all required information on the signup form was entered and instructing the remote display to display an error message if all required information was not entered (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a player is granted access to a gaming system if information is invalid and inherently shown an error message if a login attempt fails as is well known in the art), with player information including a zip code (fig. 4, elem. 49) and a room number (fig. 4, elem. 49; where a room number may be a component of an address, such as an apartment number), the remote network interface for determining if the zip code is valid (col. 7, lins. 18 – 27; col. 7, lins. 43 – 46; where zip code information is contained within and verified with address information).

Regarding Claims 22 – 24 and 50 – 52, Sarno discloses a remote device including a plurality of servlets (col. 7, lins. 5 – 16; where different games, areas, and functions of a web site may be implemented as servlets served to a client computer), a login layer (col. 5, lin. 34), and a menu layer (col. 7, lins. 6 – 9).

Regarding Claims 25 – 28 and 53 – 56, Sarno discloses a remote system with a user having an assigned type (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a user account is of a valid or invalid type), the menu layer for allowing accessing to servlets and restricting access to servlets as a function of the assigned type (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a user account is of a valid or invalid type, and access to game system servets is restricted based on validity of an account), where the data includes a player name, a player ID card number, and a personal identification number (col. 7, lins. 23 – 27; where a card number is a player identifier and personal identification number).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 15 – 21 and 43 – 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarno, as applied to claims 1 and 30, in view of Ramakrishnan (Database Management Systems. 1998, McGraw Hill. ISBN 0-07-050775-9).

Regarding Claims 15 – 20 and 43 – 48, Sarno discloses a remote system for storing and retrieving data and a third object is coupled to the remote network interface for receiving queries from the interface, retrieving, formatting, and returning responsive data from the database to the remote device (col. 3, lins. 65 – 67; where an interface between storage and a network is provided to make a host computer's data accessible to clients). Sarno does not disclose a specific type of data storage including a database consisting of tables with first data objects coupled to the database tables or a second data objects for assembling first data objects. However, Ramakrishnan teaches a database for storing data in database tables (p. 21, para. 2) with a plurality of first data objects coupled to the database tables for retrieving and storing data in the database tables (p. 22, para. 2; where relations such as data types are formed within tables), at least one second data object coupled to the first data objects for assembling multiple first data objects into a third data object (p. 21, para. 2; where a second object is a database collecting all tables of a database). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

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one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the generic network based storage device as disclosed by Sarno with the specific table and database related storage system as taught by Ramakrishnan in order to provide a more organized and efficient method of accessing and manipulating data.

Regarding Claims 21 and 49, Sarno discloses a remote device including a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22) and an interface for formatting responsive data into a hyper text mark-up language response for display by the web client (col. 4, lin. 8).

3. Claims 13, 29, 41 – 42 and 57 – 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarno, as applied to claims 1 and 30, in view of Holch et al. (U.S. Patent 5,674,128).

Regarding Claims 13 and 41 – 42, Sarno discloses a room number (fig. 4, elem. 49; where a room number may be a component of an address, such as an apartment number), the remote network interface for determining if the zip code is valid (col. 7, lins. 18 – 27; col. 7, lins. 43 – 46; where zip code information is contained within and verified with address information) and allowing access to a game once information has been validated, but does not disclose creating a new user record. However, Holch teaches creating a record in the database containing the player, retrieving additional player information from the database, and creating a record in the database containing the player and additional player information (col. 5, lins. 60 – 65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the gaming system including a login and database of Sarno with the method of

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storing player identification information prior to a first start of the game in order to increase convenience for player who wishes to play a game more than once without having to enter identification information during play of each session.

Regarding Claim 29 and 57 – 58, Sarno discloses a remote device including a touchscreen display (col. 4, lins. 18 – 19; where a personal digital assistant may inherently contain a touchscreen), but does not disclose capturing a signature.

However, Holch teaches capturing a signature of the player, the data including the signature (col. 5, lins. 56 – 58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the touchscreen player device of Sarno with the method of capturing a player signature for central storage as taught by Holch in order to increase player identification security.

Regarding Claims 59 – 62, Sarno discloses a remote system where a user is identified and allowed access to a gaming environment based on an identification card (col. 7, lins. 23 – 27), but does not disclose a specific method of assigning a player card to a player based on a player's valid identification information. However, Holch teaches a method where the remote device includes a barcode reader or ID card reader, and allowing the user to enter the ID Card number includes reading the ID card number from an unassigned player ID Card using the barcode reader or ID card reader and assigning the player ID Card to the player when enrolling the player in the player tracking system (col. 5, lins. 43 – 65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the remote gaming system of Sarno where a player uses an identification card created from valid identification information with the method of

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assigning a card to player as taught by Holch in order to create a complete gaming system where a player may be assigned a card and then use that card in a gaming environment.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant maintains that Sarno does not clearly disclose a gaming server and client model, but instead discloses a vague network system using a PDA to PDA network connection. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Sarno discloses both at least one client computer and a host computer connected over a communication network (col. 3, lins. 51 – 62), and further discloses multiple client computers (col. 3, lins. 63 – 65).

Applicant further maintains that Sarno does not disclose a third client computer for enrolling a player in a system, and further maintains that a player must sign up and logon before playing. However, Sarno discloses a host computer with multiple clients computers as discussed above, and further an Internet based network to connect clients to the host computer, allowing a player to use the system from any computer connected to the host computer through the network (col. 3, lins. 44 – 47). Because of the nature of this system, a player may be able to register on any client computer in communication with the host computer, and then, at a later time, play a game on any other client computer connected to the host computer. Because a player may enroll and play on the same client computer, does not mean that a player must do so. In fact, the system of Sarno is designed to allow a player to enroll on a completely separate client computer from a computer that may be used to login and play a game.

For the above reasons, Claims 1 – 64 stand rejected.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

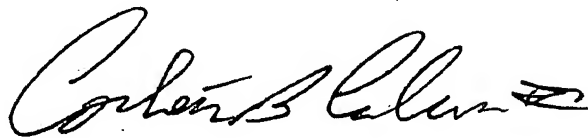
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aashish Karkhanis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2774. The examiner can normally be reached on 0800-1630 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ARK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn" with a stylized flourish at the end.

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**